

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY JUVENILE JUSTICE COMMISSION  
GIRLS REHABILITATION FACILITY  
INSPECTION REPORT  
2007**

**Facility Name:** GIRLS REHAB. FACILITY  
**Superintendent:** Yvette Klepin  
**Address:** 2861 Meadow Lark Road  
San Diego, CA 92123

**Inspection Date:** 2/7/08  
**Last Inspection Date:** 9/12/06  
**Telephone Number:** (858) 694-4510  
**Fax:** (858) 514-8488

**Type of Facility:** Juvenile Hall

**Presiding Juvenile Court Judge:**  
Honorable Susan Huguenor

**Staff Interviewed:**  
Yvette Klepin, Probation Director  
Leann Kowalski, Supervising Prob. Officer

**Commission Inspection Team:**  
William B. Apan  
Chuck Lee

**Juvenile Justice Commission Chair:** Steve Wiley

**Comments and Recommendations:**

The Girl's Rehabilitation Facility (GRF) is an intensive, highly structured program serving female wards ages 11-18. The programs offered are designed to meet each girl's personal, emotional and educational needs.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Rehabilitate the Annex's (dormitories between Unit 400 and GRF) flooring, electrical outlets and lighting, and replace metal bunk beds and metal desks.
2. Replace existing washer and dryer with industrial-type washer and dryer.
3. Finish rehabilitating "Beauty Room".

**2006 RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. GRF needs more athletic equipment such as "Soccer, Basketball, Volleyball, and Tetherball safety gear" (shin guards, gloves, balls, tights, practice vests, and cleats).
2. Add additional picnic tables to match the existing tables.
3. Provide an awning for the outside grass area directly behind B wing.
4. Rehabilitate the "Beauty Room" as the plumbing, paint and overall esthetics are deteriorated.

All of the 2006 recommendations have been met with the exception of the rehabilitation of the "Beauty Room" that is currently ongoing.

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**AREA REVIEWED:**

R= Reviewed    NR=Not Reviewed    I= Interviewed    NI – Not Interviewed

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

Physical Plant - R  
Meals/Nutrition - R  
Mental Health - R  
Physical/Dental Health - R  
Religious Services - R  
Volunteer Involvement - R  
Visiting - R

**PROGRAMS**

Education - R  
Vocation/Employability - R  
Community Services - R  
Victim/Gang Awareness - R  
Substance Abuse - R

**PERSONS INTERVIEWED**

Minors - NI  
Superintendent - I  
Medical/Psyche. Staff - NI  
School Staff - NI  
Supervisor - I  
Supervisor Staff (Counselors) - NI  
Food Services Staff - NI

**SINCE THE LAST INSPECTION INDICATE:**

**Number of Suicides:**   0  

**Number of Deaths from other causes:**   0  

**Number of Attempted Suicides:**   0  

**Number of Escapes:**   0  

**Number of Attempted Escapes:**   0  

**Local Inspections:**

Medical/Mental Health: March 2007  
Nutritional Health: March 2007  
Environmental Health: March 2007  
Fire Inspection: October 2006 (inspected every two years)

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Has the facility exceeded capacity since the last inspection?**

No. There were 43 wards on the date of inspection.

**Does the facility house minors under Section 601 Welfare & Institutions Code?**

No. Only 602s are housed at GRF.

**STAFFING**

**Staff to Child Ratio:**

Staff to child ratio is compliant with existing standards – 1:15 awake and 1:30 asleep.

**Communication in Language minor can understand?**

The primary language other than English spoken by the wards is Spanish. Some of the Correctional Officers are bilingual, English/Spanish. Additionally, the facility subscribes to Interpretalk, a telephone translation service which can provide telephone translation in a wide variety of languages within 30 minutes.

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**Diversity of Staff:**

GRF staff is highly diverse in ethnicity and culture which consists of 5 Hispanic, 3 Asian, 2 African American, 1 Male, and 10 Caucasian staff; 18 sworn officers and 1 support staff.

**Staff/Minor interactions:**

Communication skills are essential to the Correctional Deputy Probation Officer (CDPO) at GRF. Respectful interaction between staff and wards is expected continuously from both groups. CDPOs are critical, continual, and constant about their responsibilities to the wards. Each CDPO is assigned a caseload of four to five wards according to TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families), Title XV that meets weekly on their 10- to 12-week program. The CDPO will take the role of mediator and motivate the wards through any behavioral or attitudinal issues that might prevent the ward from successfully completing the program. There is an emphasis on staff participation with weekly team meetings. There are three teams of wards and three Team Leaders that empower the ward on leadership responsibility skills. There are also Dorm Counselors. The wards can apply for this position and mediate more between each team on peer issues and support the Team Leader.

**Staff Interviews – Comments:**

The staff at GRF is professional, committed, and understanding to the needs of the population they serve. The staff is incredibly pliable and cognizant of their responsibilities towards the wards. They observe a loyalty and commitment admirable to the staff at GRF and its philosophy.

**CONDITIONS OF GROUNDS**

**Lawns, playing fields, blacktop, asphalt and other:**

There are picnic tables with umbrellas, a barbeque grill, potted hibiscus plants, fruit trees (orange and lemon) and an awning in back of the facility across from the new section in B Wing.

**EXTERIOR OF BUILDINGS**

**General condition, paint, roof, drains/gutters and etc.:**

The general condition of the building exterior is excellent. Constant attention is paid to appearance, both inside and out.

**INTERIOR OF BUILDINGS**

**Interior:**

Since the last inspection, the interior furniture has been upgraded in B Wing (newest section at GRF). There are new couches, book shelves and new paint in the entire facility. All the furniture has been donated by the Executive Women International Group.

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**Laundry Room:**

The laundry room is used daily by the GRF wards to do their wash. However, when GRF expanded to 50 beds, the equipment used for washing remained the same. The existing washer and dryer are regular home equipment and the demand is great now because of the 20 additional beds. The GRF wards would benefit from an industrial capacity washer and dryer.

**Are cleaning fluids and chemicals labeled and safely stored?**

All cleaning fluids and chemicals were stored in locked areas and away from the wards.

**Weapons Locker location:**

No weapons are allowed in this facility.

**Recreation/Sports equipment:**

GRF shares space with Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility (KMJDF) wards at different times for the use of the basketball and volleyball courts. There is also an obstacle course being developed by both GRF and KMJDF for the use of the wards in areas 3, 4, and 5. There are a variety of organized sports that the wards can join if they choose to do so like basketball, soccer, and or running teams.

**Are the hallways clear and doors propped open?**

The hallways are clear and the doors are not propped open.

**Court Holding area:**

Not applicable to GRF.

**Sleeping rooms/dormitories:**

The sleeping rooms are divided into two wings, A and B. "B" wing is the newer section of GRF built in 2003 with a capacity of 20 beds. "A" wing is the existing sleeping rooms that have also been remodeled in 2005 with a capacity of 30 beds.

There is a section in GRF referred to as the "Annex" that has five rooms and 10 beds. This area of beds is in the "A" wing section of GRF and is used for high-risk (AWOL), workout, and behavioral-challenged wards. This section is also for new arrivals to GRF from KMJDF as a transitioning living quarter.

**Beds:**

Beds in the "A" wing are more institutional/metal and are a minimum of 12 inches from the floor with a thin vinyl-coated mattress. Beds in the "B" wing are either bunk or single-style and at least 12 inches from the floor.

**Art, books, personal possessions allowed in sleeping rooms?**

Some personal possessions are allowed in the sleeping room, such as books and writing materials. Other more decorative and personal possessions are permitted based on privileges earned. This is well documented in the GRF Rule Book. Parents are permitted to bring the girls their personal hygiene items on Thursday and Sunday after they pass on to the Journey phase of their Passport to Life Program. These items are checked, approved, and listed on each girl's property list.

The La Jolla Country Day School All School Book Group has adopted GRF as part of their book club and has donated books.

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**Graffiti present?**

No graffiti was observed during the Commissioners' visit.

**Ample blankets?**

Each girl is issued two blankets upon admission. A ward may ask for an additional blanket if needed.

**Study Area:**

Girls generally study in their room. There is a large, well-lit day room at the end of the hallway in the older part of the facility. There is a second day room adjacent to the sleeping rooms in the "B" wing. Both are spacious, comfortable and well lit. More desks have been added to the "B" wing; there are now six additional desks that are used by the wards.

**Adequate lighting?**

The older part of the facility is generally darker than the new wing which has more daylight. However, both portions are well lit.

**Temperature:**

The temperature was comfortable on the day of the inspection. Temperature is controlled as needed based on the weather. Adequate heating and air conditioning is provided when indicated.

**ORIENTATION OF MINORS**

**Are minors oriented to rules and procedures?**

Minors are well oriented to the rules and procedures at GRF. Upon admission, each ward receives a written copy of "Girls Rehabilitation Facility Rule Book." They are also provided with a copy of "Passport to Life Program Phase Outline". Correctional staff individually orients each ward to the rules. Parents are also oriented to rules and expectations.

**Are rules and grievance procedures posted?**

Minors are provided with a written copy of the rules. The grievance procedure at GRF is posted and highly visible on both "A" and "B" wings. The Probation staff has revised the grievance process by adding a control number system to track all grievances. The development of a grievance log has been implemented to ensure all grievances are addressed. Third-year law students from the California Western School of Law conduct a one-hour training session every week on mediation between staff and wards. This mediation approach has had a successful turnover with day-to-day peer and staff conflicts.

**Are rules and grievance procedures understood by minors?**

All wards spend time in KMJDF before they are committed to GRF and, while in KMJDF, they receive a copy of the rule book that they carry throughout their commitment at GRF. Every ward has been educated on the rules and grievance procedures.

**Minors Interviewed – Comments**

No minors were interviewed during this inspection visit.

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**MEALS/NUTRITION**

**Kitchen – Clean; are knives and chemicals locked?**

The meals are obtained from KMJDF and are prepared by the County Sheriff's Department. The GRF kitchen is very clean and well kept. Knives are kept locked and are used by the kitchen staff only.

**Have the youths working in the kitchen been trained?**

GRF wards do not work in the kitchen; however, they help with the serving of breakfast, lunch and dinner. There are some wards that help with preparing meals in the GRF kitchen around Christmas and Thanksgiving only for the GRF wards. All work conducted by the wards around meals are closely supervised by Probation staff.

**Are meals served or cafeteria style?**

All meals are prepared at the Sheriff Department's central kitchen and transported to KMJDF. Meals are individually wrapped in prepared trays. All meals are served in the dining area.

**Are minors permitted to converse during meals?**

Wards are permitted to converse with each other during meals at their own table. Wards may not converse between tables. All wards are assigned seats and are not permitted to change seats.

**Is Staff present and supervising?**

Staff is present and supervises all meals, including the preparation of the room and the distribution of the meals.

**Is weekly menu prepared? Is it posted?**

Weekly menus are prepared and posted at GRF. If a ward requires a special diet secondary to a chronic disease such as diabetes, this is ordered through the medical clinic and the food is then prepared according to specifications in the kitchen.

**Are servings ample, nutritious and appetizing?**

All meals are prepared to be appetizing, nutritious and have generous portions.

**Are weaker youths protected from having food taken from them?**

Meals are well supervised. If bullying is noticed, appropriate disciplinary action is immediately taken.

**Length of time allowed for eating?**

At least 30 minutes is allowed for meals.

**PERSONAL APPEARANCE OF MINORS**

**Appearance?**

Minors were well groomed. They are outfitted in plain pants and T shirts. GRF-issued clothing, night gowns, robes and shoes are the only clothing the minors are permitted to wear. Minors with special needs (e.g. pregnant minors) wear vests to indicate certain restrictions.

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**Showers – Frequency? Privacy maintained? Supervised by Staff? Any assaults in showers?**

All wards must shower a minimum of five minutes every day. Showers are constantly supervised by staff; some privacy is maintained with doors covering approximately shoulders to knees depending on the height of the minor. No assaults were discussed during the visit other than to state the safety precautions in place to prevent assault or inappropriate sexual activity among wards.

**Condition of clothing – Does clothing fit? Is it appropriate to weather?**

Clothing is loose fitting and appropriate to weather. Clothing was noted to be clean and well maintained. All of the clothing, including underwear, shoes, robes and night clothing is provided by GRF. Wards are not permitted to wear personal clothing.

**PROGRAMS**

**Recreation – type and amount each day:**

Recreation time is provided in compliance with Title XV requirements. Generally, three hours daily and five hours on weekends are allotted for recreation. A broad spectrum of activities is scheduled; wards have access based on their phase in the program and the privileges they have earned. These activities include movie night, beauty night, staff excursions, four- and eight-hour passes with families, special outings etc.

**Exercise – Daily schedule and amount of time each day:**

Wards are expected to participate in some physical activity daily. They have one hour of large muscle exercise as well as team sports like basketball, baseball, and soccer. GRF's running team is currently pending because of staff turnover and finding a running coach.

**Access to Religious Services?**

There are Catholic and Christian services twice per month. There is a new Chaplain Request Box by the phone for any ward interested in meeting with the Chaplain. The accessibility of the Chaplain allows wards from different denominations to be seen by their appropriate contact.

**Medical/Mental health Services:**

Wards at GRF have access to all medical and mental health services provided at KMJDF. This program is exemplary. Medical services are contracted with and provided by California Forensic Medical Group (CFMG). CFMG continues to contract with Children's Specialist of San Diego (CSSD) out of Children's Hospital for pediatric services provided to wards age 15 or less. Wards older than 15 receive medical services through Sharp Hospital. Daytime staffing includes 1 physician, 1 Physician's Assistant, 3 Licensed Vocational Nurses (LVNs), and 1 Registered Nurse (RN). Night staffing includes 1 RN and 2.5 LVNs. The local nursing shortage continues to require some shifts to be filled through contract nursing. Mental health care is provided through County Mental Health; there is a strong working relationship between medical and mental health services characterized by consistent joint meetings at which complex cases are discussed. GRF has a new psychologist, Therese Reichert, Ph.D., that started in December 2007.

**Volunteer Program:**

GRF has a variety of volunteer programming throughout the year such as Juvenile Court Book Club, La Jolla Country Day All School Book Group, Executive Women International Group, Literacy, Tutors, Narcotics/Alcoholics Anonymous (NA) (AA), Teen Prostitution group, Pet Therapy (Humane Society), Life Skills Training and Cosmetology School.

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**Counseling and Casework:**

Each ward is assigned an "inside PO," who is a Correctional Officer, and a team to support the ward in successful completion of her program. All wards in the GRF full program are assigned to an individual counselor, either through Probation Forensics or through Spectrum. The girls are routinely seen about once a week, sometimes less, sometimes more as needed. Whenever a ward has an emotional crisis or has a problem requiring immediate intervention, the therapist is contacted and asked to see the ward as soon as possible. Those wards that are prescribed psychotropic medication are seen regularly by qualified mental health staff.

**Family Reunification Planning:**

Family counseling is conducted once per week (both English and Spanish groups) and is facilitated by GRF staff and by Spectrum. The goal of the group is to create a supportive environment to share and learn positive parenting skills. The group also opens communication between parents and wards to prepare the way for wards to return home. Additionally, for those wards that are pregnant or are parents, a mother/child bonding group facilitated by GRF staff is held twice a month. This program utilizes handouts, videos, guest speakers and written exercise techniques to educate mothers in child development, safety and parenting skills.

**Substance Abuse Counseling:**

The Spectrum Program facilitates a weekly Chemical Dependency group that begins with fundamental identification of specific chemicals and exposes the wards from the contemplative experimentation progress to addiction. San Diego Youth and Community Services (SDYCS) facilitate a relapse and recovery counseling group. Additionally, GRF staff facilitates groups in Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse (CCSA) that allow the wards to identify their thinking and explain their behavior while abusing chemicals. Spectrum provides drug counseling, and volunteers from NA and AA hold meetings in the facility. Spectrum also provides an Aftercare Program developed as a support system after their release; this program provides relapse prevention, life skills, avoiding the influence of others, and an on-going support to return to their community.

**Victim Awareness Classes:**

GRF uses many curriculums that address the issue of Victim Awareness. "VOICES" is a self-discovery and empowerment for girls which includes teen prostitution. "Thinking for a Change" and "Criminal Conduct and Substance Abuse" are both curricula that allow the ward to self examine their own thoughts and feelings, and assist with identifying contributing factors to their criminal behavior patterns, a straight-forward cognitive approach to these issues. The Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF) is pending but very interested in getting involved with GRF.

**Gang Awareness Classes:**

The Spectrum Program provides a "Street Gang Culture" group that addresses the dysfunctional thinking of this culture's lifestyle. The group covers the contemplation period up to the documentation/validation level. The group also explores the destructive natural consequences of their involvement with street gangs. Current legislation and prosecution is also discussed and used as a deterrent to this lifestyle. Safe and alternative lifestyles such as education and military philosophies are used in an effort to remove the ward from this dangerous environment.



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**Sexual Harassment Classes:**

Wards are provided with education about sexual harassment and are fully aware there is zero tolerance for this behavior at GRF. Each day the correctional officer reads a statement defining sexual harassment and explaining what to do if a ward believes they are being sexually harassed. These allegations are taken very seriously.

**Parenting Classes:**

There are two parenting components offered by GRF. "Proud Parenting" is facilitated by San Diego Youth & Community Services (SDYCS). This group is designed for pregnant teens, teen parents, and those at risk of becoming teen parents. The group meets for four weeks and covers parenting, child development, developing self-esteem in children, goal setting and child discipline. The Spectrum Program has a Multi-Cultural Family Group that focuses on developing relationships between parents and wards. This group addresses more of the actual parenting experience between the parent and ward. Personal encounter groups and positive non-violent communication skills are introduced. This group is offered once per week and parents of the wards are encouraged to participate.

**Vocational Classes:**

The Regional Occupation Program (ROP) through the Juvenile Court & Community Schools (JCCS) offers a "Retail Sales and Merchandizing" training program for eight weeks. The ROP has staff in place for the girls after they leave GRF and follows up with their programming and job placement in the community. Wards need to be 16 years old to participate.

**Work Program:**

This work crew program utilizes the wards at GRF to work around the facility. They are involved with beautification projects such as landscaping the GRF entrance, trash abatements within the facility, as well as maintaining appearance of GRF vehicles.

**New Programs:**

La Jolla Country Day All School Book Group provides books and reading sessions for the wards in GRF encouraging reading and literacy. California K9 training exposes GRF wards to the fundamentals of dog training, developing purpose and self esteem for the wards. Judge Patricia Cowett and the Legal Aid Society provide a "Mediation Program" once a week for the GRF wards.

**DISCIPLINE OF MINORS**

**Frequency and type:**

There is a structured system for discipline; consequences of negative behavior are clearly outlined in the GRF Rule Book and in the Passport to Life Phase outline. Wards are assigned essays called "thinking reports" when they break a rule. Rule breaking can also result in loss of status, regression to a lower program level, workouts, administrative removal to KMJDF and termination. Short-Term Offender Program (STOP) girls have rule violations, in-house administrative removal to the Annex (the older sleeping area with steel bunk beds between GRF and Unit 400 in KMJDF) as a consequence.

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**GRIEVANCES**

**Number and Type:**

GRF had 202 grievances in 2007 mostly for wards feeling unfairly treated when disciplined. The grievance procedure has been revised by developing a tracking system and grievance log that is working to ensure all grievances are dealt with accordingly.

**TELEPHONE**

**Access:**

Wards are permitted access to a telephone to make collect calls to their family every night and/or as court ordered. Phone calls are considered a privilege and this privilege can be temporarily withheld for disciplinary reasons.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**Is Postage Free? Is incoming and/or outgoing mail read? Is there confidential correspondence?**

Postage is free to wards sending outgoing mail. Incoming and outgoing mail to and from wards is not read. Mail may be "scanned/shaken out" for contraband according to policy. Correspondence is confidential.

**VISITING**

**Is there adequate space, convenient times or accommodations to parent work schedule, etc. special visits? Does staff supervise visits? Is there adequate privacy?**

Adequate space is provided for families to visit twice per week, on Sunday mornings and Thursday evenings. Variety in times is provided to accommodate parental work schedule. Visits take place in spacious day rooms. Special visits also take place at GRF; parents are encouraged to bring siblings and grandparents. These visits last one hour, and outside packaged food, such as fast food, is allowed. GRF staff supervises all visits except Family Counseling sessions. The space provided for visiting is large enough to allow for family privacy. Families can easily spread out so no other family is in close proximity and can overhear their interactions. Staff does supervise these visits.

**Have all minors had visits?**

Not always. All minors are provided the opportunity for visitation and have visits, unless they have no family or the family chooses not to come.

**SCHOOL**

**Teachers – Number of full-time; frequency of substitutions:**

The school program is year round and staffed with 20 full-time contracted teachers, 3 teachers exclusively for GRF in conjunction with the school program at KMJDF. Because of the year-round schedule, substitute teachers are on site most days to cover for full-time staff vacations and sick leave. The school year is 245 days.

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**Number of minors attending school:**

School is required and mandatory for all wards at GRF. When at capacity, 50 wards will be in school.

**Number of minors in each classroom:**

The school program is operated jointly with KMJDF. There are 15 classrooms in all with a maximum of 20 students in each room.

**Number of minors on independent study:**

There were no minors on independent study. The school has the capacity to place a minor on independent study if needed; however, there is Saturday School for additional help from 9-11:30 a.m., with two teachers using both classrooms.

**Atmosphere of classroom:**

Classrooms were not observed during this inspection. The Director reported that the classrooms are orderly and well controlled. Wards generally apply themselves to the educational program as student-to-teacher ratio is enhanced in this educational setting. Classrooms are well supervised with support of correctional officers readily available, and discipline problems are rare.

**Adequate Supplies? Books, paper, computers, etc.**

Supplies and books are always kept well stocked by the County Office of Education (COE). Classrooms have computers with Internet access for teachers only. However, the COE is looking into additional computers with Internet access for the wards.

**Activities and coursework:**

Coursework is grade appropriate and individualized according to the needs of the students whose educational needs are individually assessed. The education program is standards based ("power standards") and the teachers teach to the required standards. The school uses the Holt series for Language Arts and Prentiss Hall for Math. A variety of Social Science texts are used. School is from 0800—1400, Monday through Friday, with lunch from 1100-1200 and one hour of physical education daily. Each 20 days of attendance equals one credit.

**Are minors required to do homework?**

Wards at GRF may be required to do homework. Homework is completed in their rooms and open areas.

**Number of minors not attending. Reason:**

There were no minors who were not attending school. School is a requirement to participate in the program at GRF.

**Relationship between the school and GRF staff.**

The relationship between staff at GRF and school staff is considered excellent. Leadership is supportive of the collaborative effort between school and GRF staff, and school staff participates in unit meetings at GRF. Both groups have worked hard at developing good communication and rapport. School staff consistently acknowledges school accomplishment which contributes to overall goals of GRF programming. The school sponsors a monthly Honor Roll and currently average four to five girls passing the GED, with one field trip per month, one pizza party per month, and one to two guest speakers per month.

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**MEDICAL/MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

There is ready access to both medical and mental health services. There are boxes throughout the living areas for wards to fill out a sick leave request. These are collected by nursing staff every four hours and are triaged for medical staff, i.e. nurse visit, physician assistant visit or MD visit. The medical team works closely with Public Health regarding public health issues such as STDs and positive PPDs (purified protein derivative or Tuberculosis Skin Test). Wards are referred for mental health services in a variety of ways, including self referrals, referrals from probation officers, correctional officers, parents, medical team, etc. The mental health team provides crisis intervention and stabilization, which may require ongoing care during time at Juvenile Hall. The mental health team is also available during visiting hours to allow for interaction with families of the wards. Approximately 30% of the wards take prescribed psychotropic medication which is monitored by the psychiatrist and administered by registered nurses. Additionally, Health Educators work with the wards and their families when this will benefit the ward.

The Linda Vista Health and Community Service Center provides a monthly program to discuss various physical and mental health issues that effect young women in today's society.

The San Diego Family Health Center provides an eight-week program discussing such topics as female anatomy and physiology, birth control, STDs, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and depression/suicide. The Wellness Team provides support as well, with monthly individual and family counseling sessions on STDs and Hepatitis C.

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